Disparity in prices of drugs and medical equipments

*359. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that catheter of different companies have different prices with huge variation;

(b) the details of medicines and medical equipments serving the same purpose but having abnormal deviations in prices;

(c) the detailed reasons for such abnormal deviations in prices though they serve the same purpose and all of them are manufactured by standard companies; and

(d) the measures already taken and proposed to be taken to put an end to such deviations in prices and develop an affective price controlling vigilant monitoring system throughout India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Catheter is a hollow tube which is passed through the body of evacuating fluids or injecting them into the body cavities or vessels. A wide variety of Catheters depending upon their use are available in the market and are prices accordingly. Arterial Catheters used by cardiact surgeons or urinary catheters used for collecting urine are priced differentially.

A large number of different type of medicines or medical equipments are available for similar conditions and purposes. Prices of these products are based on the input costs of the materials used, technologies involved in the manufacture, nature of the equipments etc.

The mandate of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, is limited to regulating the import, manufacture, sale and quality control of drugs and pharmaceuticals. No control over the prices of drugs or catheters is exercised by the Ministry of Health under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Amendment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

†*360. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Ministers of States in the country have demanded that more rights should be provided to the tribals by amending the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have made this demand and when such demand was made; and

(c) the decision taken, so far, by Government to effect amendments in the above Act?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Chief Ministers of some of the States have requested for settlement of rights of forest dwellers including tribals on forest land which includes regularization of encroachments and conversion of forest villages into revenue villages. The name of the States and the date on which such demand was made is given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has already issued guidelines on 18.09.1990 under the Forest (Conversation) Act, 1980 for settlement of rights of forest dwellers including tribals, over forest land. Such rights over forest land include settlement of disputed claims over forest land, regularization of pre-1980 eligible encroachments of forest land, conversion of forest villages into revenue villages and regularization of eligible pattas/grants/ leases over forest land. On 03.11.2005, the Ministry has issued detailed revised guidelines for verification/ recognition of such rights on forest land and has again requested the State/Union Territory Governments to complete the verification process. So far, 3.66 lakhs hectares of encroachments on forest land has been regularized and 511 forest villages have been converted into revenue villages. The process of settlement of rights over forest land came to a halt due to a ban imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on dereservation of forest land and regularization of encroachment of forest land vide its order dated 13.11.2000 and 23.11.2001 respectively. Since the existing guidelines provide for settlement of rights of forest dwellers including tribals on forest land, any amendment in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is not required. However, Ministry of Tribal Affairs in consultation with Ministry of Environment and Forests has introduced. The Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 in Parliament to safeguard rights of tribals on forest land and minor forest produce.

Statement

Amended Forest (Conversation) Act, 1980

Name of the State	Date(s) on which request for settlement of rights on forest land was made
Karnataka	13.11.2003 and 21.05.2005
Madhya Pradesh	07.06.2003 and 12.03.2004
Orissa	24.03.2005
Chhattisgarh	23.07.2003
Assam	20.07.2004

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Agricultural contribution to GDP

2577. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contribution of agriculture to GDP ratio is declining year after year; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the efforts made by Government to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) According to the data released by Central Statistical Organization, the contribution of agriculture including the allied sectors of forestry and logging and fishing to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at 1993-94 prices was 20.5 percent in year 2004-05 as against 21.7 percent in the year 2003-04. Details are given in the statement (*See* below).

(b) The growth in other sectors has been higher than the growth rate in agriculture. However, the Government has taken number of initiatives which